

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes – 11/17/2010

Attendees: Jan Kruse
Jen Santoro
Jim Palmer
Steve Palmer
Anthony Alcorn
Ian Todreas
Chris McVay
Roger Colton

Ian called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM.

Agenda Items:

Administrative:

- The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the last meeting, pending minor changes.
- Responsibility for posting the meeting announcements, agenda and room reservation were passed back to the co-chairs as specified in the Town of Belmont descriptions of duties of the town committee members.
- Ian asked if any subcommittees did not meet in the last month. Jan and Tony responded stating that the Residential and Commercial Subcommittees did not meet.
- There followed a group discussion and agreement to combine the Commercial and Municipal Subcommittees into one subcommittee with Roger as chair. It was agreed that this combined subcommittee will meet in the BMLD conference room on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 AM.
- Ian noted that Bob Martin will retire from the Belmont Energy Committee. Ian will send a note to Superintendent Entwistle on the question of Bob's replacement.
- The next meeting will be on Dec 9, 2010 at 8:00 AM

Transportation - Ian

Bike Racks

- Glen is making a map of Belmont bike racks and roads that are bike accessible and roads that in the future will be bike accessible.
- Ian related that the town can acquire bike racks free through MPAC.
- Steve suggested we go right to the schools and ask what makes sense for promoting biking to school. The school principal or headmaster would be the person to contact.

- Roger noted that the Traffic Advisory Board is discussing how to get bikes through the bridge in Belmont center and across parts of Trapelo Rd, and that this may be a good time to bring up placing bike racks near those locations.
- Jan noted that the Belmont Farmers Market may have input on bike racks to encourage biking to the market.
- Ian noted that “Share-Rows” sign templates are available. Also that Belmont needs a citizens group to promote biking.

Transit

- Ian noted that Will Brownsberger is on top of several transit issues including a shelter on the outbound side of the Belmont Center station and some beautification of that station.

Walking

- Ian noted that Belmont is part of the statewide “Safe routes to school” program and may be eligible for state funding for crosswalk signs, speed bumps and other traffic calming means.
- Jan asked if there was an overall plan.
- Steve responded that such requests come from the principal and get delegated to the PTO.
- Jan- We need a list of shovel ready projects from the school department to get into the funding cycle. National DOT releases funds to the states which distribute to the communities.
- Roger suggested that Ian get the relevant mailing lists for state funding for these kinds of projects.

Clean Diesel

- Ian related that the EPA has requested grant requests from states/communities on clean diesel programs and he has asked Peter to look into it. The clean diesel issue impacts the health of all, the environment and climate. The grant request is due Jan 11, 2011
- Roger noted that at the town budget meeting Ralph Jones asked about leasing clean diesel vehicles. Ian suggested that Roger write to Ralph about clean diesel rentals and that he volunteer to write the grant request. Ian is to forward the application form to Roger. Roger suggested a meeting among Ralph, Jan, Ian and Vanessa Green.

Residential - Roger

- Roger related the discussion of the residential subcommittee about the impact of awnings, shutters and shade trees on residential energy use for house cooling. Roger also related the conclusion that tree planting in town should be supported. Tony is to write a paper on the benefits of trees for the town of Belmont. Roger is to draft by-laws on tree planting:
 - Mandatory tree replacement at the removal of an 8 inch DBH tree.
 - Mandatory replacement of single 15 inch tree by two trees.
 - Mandatory tree planting in certain required permit application cases??
- Jan asked if tax bills could have a check off box for tree planting, and how could we do it.
- Roger related that the Mass State RE-LEAF Fund (a Mass funeral home association entity) supports tree planting and asked Glen to make an application. Roger also related that there were significant storm water runoff benefits which would be of interest to Will Brownsberger and Ralph Jones.
- It was remarked that we need to put in the right kind of tree.
- Ian related that he heard received a lot of complaints after the severe down draft several months ago when many trees in his precinct were toppled. It was related that some of that problem was because of kind of tree
- It was related that the town has a shade commitment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM

Submitted by Tony Alcorn, Recording Secretary